



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2010

No. 113—Book III

## House of Representatives

□ 2110

### JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010— Continued

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Laura was a healthy 41-year-old woman when she spent 5 weeks working at Ground Zero in the months following 9/11. Now she has an incurable cancer and two tumors. She has had numerous cancerous lesions removed from her mouth and her airways. She has undergone facial rebuilding four times as a result and can barely walk down the street due to her breathing problems. Her two sons say that the mother they knew died at Ground Zero.

This bill is the right thing to do for Laura and all the first responders who came to the aid of their fellow Americans from across this country and are now suffering these horrible consequences.

I urge my colleagues to stand with these brave Americans and support this bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My friends from both sides of the aisle, many people responded on 9/11, a lot of folks from New Jersey. They were put into a situation which they did not ask for, did not pray for. These brave people deserve to be responded to. If you forget them, if you put them aside, we will have done a bad, bad thing here in the Congress of the United States.

I ask you, I plead with you, please recognize—two studies from two major hospitals in New Jersey indicate how severe that situation is. These people need your help, whether they were contractors, workers, firemen, or policemen. I ask you to respond.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be standing here to support our heroes from 9/11.

While the entire nation watched with sorrow for those we lost and tried to heal emotionally after that day—there were only a few brave souls who went back to that rubble day-after-day and endured the physical and mental strain of clearing the remains of the towers in lower Manhattan.

On that day, we gave those brave souls the “all clear” sign, but we now know that we were exposing those men and women to a poisonous dust that would stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Today—more than four and a half years after the death of NYPD Det. James Zadroga—I am here to say that we need to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act right away because we are losing these brave souls as we speak.

We need this bill because it will finally provide comprehensive health care and compensation for thousands of our ailing 9/11 heroes—and it does so while being fully paid for by closing foreign tax shelters.

This isn't just a bill for New York and New Jersey—This is a bill for all Americans.

We know that people from all 50 States were in lower Manhattan on or after 9/11 and now are facing serious health concerns—there are 435 congressional districts and 431 of them are represented by the names of constituents on the World Trade Center Health Registry.

After 9/11, we all said we would be there for these brave first responders—but today if we vote against this bill we are asking those same brave individuals to come to Washington, year after year to fight for their health benefits—do we expect them to come here ten years from now?

By then, it may be too late for many of these men and women who responded to their Nation's call of duty.

I urge all my colleagues to support the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to my friend from Long Island, Mr. ISRAEL.

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier today on this bill. I just want to make one final point.

The American people watching this debate are hearing finger pointing and blame laying, and you know what? All the finger pointing and all the blame laying isn't going to help a single 9/11 responder with his or her health care.

It is very simple: If you believe that these heroes deserve to be monitored for their medical conditions and deserve health care, vote “yes”; if you don't believe that, vote “no.” But let's stop the partisan bickering and the posturing and get on to the business at hand, which is helping these people.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents an irresponsible overreach and does not contain the necessary protections to safeguard taxpayer dollars from abuse, waste, and fraud.

Ken Feinberg, the special master of the original 9/11 fund, has stated that if the fund is reenacted, it should be for a window of 5 years, not 21, and that it should be done with “the understanding that there would be no changes in the rules and regulations governing the original fund, and that the new law would simply be a one-line reaffirmation of the original 9/11 fund.” Unfortunately, the majority did not listen to Mr. Feinberg's sound advice. Instead, we are considering a bill that creates a fund with an unnecessary 21-year-long duration that contains special protections for trial attorneys, extends greatly the original fund's eligibility and criteria, and does not include the procedural protections necessary to safeguard the fund from abuse, waste, and fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say I think this is another example of the Democrats' insatiable appetite for the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this bill.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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